Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-18. (canceled

Claim 19. (previously presented): A method for operating a telecommunications system having a packet-switching communications network, the method comprising the steps of:

establishing a connection between at least one first subscriber to the packet-switching communications network;

establishing a connection between a network element of a circuit-switching communications network to the packet-switching communications network using an interface unit;

transmitting first signaling information, intended for the at least one first subscriber, from the network element to the interface unit;

processing the first signaling information in the interface unit wherein at least one part of the first signaling information is configured according to a signaling standard of the circuit-switching communication network and the remaining part is converted to second signaling information according to the signaling standard of the packet-switched communications network; and

transmitting the processed signaling information from the interface unit to the first subscriber, wherein the second signaling information is transmitted using signaling packets of the packet-switching communications network, and the at least one part of the first signaling information is transmitted using a data area of the signaling packets that do not contain any second signaling information.

Claim 20. (new): The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the first signaling information corresponds to a DSS1 signaling protocol.

Claim 21. (new): The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the second signaling information corresponds to an H.323/H.450 signaling protocol.

Claim 22. (new): The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the second signaling information corresponds to a SIP signaling protocol.

Claim 23. (new): The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the second signaling information is transmitted using signaling packets of the packet-switching communications network, and wherein the first signaling information is transmitted using a data area of the signaling packets which does not contain any second signaling information.

Claim 24. (new): The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein at least one service or feature which cannot be used by the second signaling information is made available for use to the first subscriber via the first signaling information.

Claim 25. (new): The method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the service or feature is at least one of call pick-up, call divert, call forwarding, call name display, subscriber cut-in, subscriber-dependent ringing, three-way conferencing, large-scale conferencing, holding, displaying of toll information, a closed user group, a private call number schedule, call number identification, automatic callback when busy, automatic callback when no reply, call barring, call waiting and call transfer.

Claim 26. (new): The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the first signaling information is transmitted between the first subscriber and at least one second subscriber in accordance with a tunnel principle using the packet-switching communications network.

Claim 27. (new): The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the interface unit converts the first signaling information of the network element into second signaling information, and further converts the second signaling information into the first signaling

information, the first signaling information signaling information of the circuits switching communications network which can be converted the second signaling information.

Claim 28. (new): The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein user data is transmitted using the network element when there is a connection between the first subscriber and at least one second subscriber.

Claim 29. (new): The method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the user data is transmitted directly between the first and second subscribers using the packet-switching communications network when there is a connection between the first subscriber and the at least one second subscriber of the packet-switching communications network.

Claim 30. (new): The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the first subscriber assumes one of a main line function and an extension function.

Claim 31. (new): The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein a call number is assigned to the first subscriber in the network element, the first subscriber in the packet-switching communications network has a subscriber address, and wherein the assignment between the subscriber address and the call number is made using a control unit.

Claim 32. (new): The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the first subscriber is administered as a subscriber with one of an ISDN basic access and a broadband ISDN access in the network element.

Claim 33. (new): The method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the ISDN access is one of an ISDN access in point-to-point configuration and an ISDN access in point-to-multipoint configuration.

Claim 34. (new): The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the packet-switching communications network is a data network which is based on an Internet protocol, and the first subscriber is an IP terminal.

Claim 35. (new): The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the first subscriber sets up a voice connection to a second subscriber.

Claim 36. (new): A telecommunications system for operating a telecommunications system having a packet-switching communications network, comprising:

means for establishing a connection between at least one first subscriber to the packet-switching communications network;

means for establishing a connection between a network element of a circuit-switching communications network to the packet-switching communications network using an interface unit;

means for transmitting first signaling information, intended for the at least one first subscriber, from the network element to the interface unit;

means for processing the first signaling information in the interface unit wherein at least one part of the first signaling information is configured according to a signaling standard of the circuit-switching communication network and the remaining part is converted to second signaling information according to the signaling standard of the packet-switched communications network; and

means for transmitting the processed signaling information from the interface unit to the first subscriber, wherein the second signaling information is transmitted using signaling packets of the packet-switching communications network, and the at least one part of the first signaling information is transmitted using a data area of the signaling packets that do not contain any second signaling information.